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Forty-seventh session
Items 12 and 14 of the
preliminary list*

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

Letter dated 23 March 1992 from the Chargé d'affaires, a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the text of the "Appeal of the Heads of State of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine to the United Nations concerning provision of Assistance in Mitigating the Consequences of the Chernobyl Catastrophe", issued on 20 March at Kiev (see annex).

I request you to circulate the text of the present letter and its annex as a document of the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly under items 12 and 14 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Victor A. KRYZHANIVSKIY
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Permanent Mission of
Ukraine to the United Nations

* A/47/50.

ANNEX

Appeal of the Heads of State of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine to the United Nations concerning the provision of assistance in mitigating the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, issued at Kiev on 20 March 1992

Because of its magnitude and the damage it caused, the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station on 26 April 1986 is one of the most serious accidents in the history of mankind caused by a failure of technology. In terms of the level of radiation released into the biosphere, it ranks as a global disaster.

The Chernobyl disaster affected the fate of millions of people in many countries of the world and it continues to have adverse effects on the lives and health of people, particularly children, primarily in the affected regions of Belarus, Ukraine and Russia.

The extraordinary nature of the situation is accentuated by the potential danger posed by the "Sarkofag" unit, and by the world's lack of experience in dealing with the consequences of disasters of this magnitude.

Thanks to the efforts of the United Nations, particularly in the past year during which an international programme for mitigating the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster was approved, a practical course of broad international cooperation has been mapped out for mitigating the consequences of this calamity.

However, owing to the extremely complicated situation in the former USSR and the cessation of its existence, the United Nations was not able to put this idea into effect. As a result of the breakup of the USSR there have appeared on the world map, recognized by the world, three States Members of the United Nations which have been most severely affected and which, in practice, have been left in head-on confrontation with the consequences of the global catastrophe, which also poses a threat to some contiguous States.

The primary responsibility borne by our peoples, for the serious consequences of the accident, which will continue to have extremely adverse effects on the lives and activities of people in the affected territories for a long time to come, prompts us on behalf of our people to appeal to the international community to give renewed impetus to the international programme to mitigate the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station.

We appeal to the United Nations to mobilize the efforts of the international community to assist our States in mitigating the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster.

(Signed) V. SHUSHKEVICH	(Signed) B. YELTSIN	(Signed) L. KRAVCHUK
President of the Supreme Council of Belarus	President of the Russian Federation	President of Ukraine

Kiev, 20 March 1992